

Appln. No. 10/723,222
Amendment dated December 1, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed August 25, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Previously Presented) A system for providing uninterrupted viewing of a real-time program during a telephone call from a caller to a user, the system comprising:

a display capable of displaying caller identification information upon receipt of the call;

a controller capable of detecting acceptance and termination of the call by the user; and

a buffer coupled to the controller, wherein the buffer is capable of buffering the real-time program from the acceptance of the call and providing the buffered program to the user upon the termination of the call until the buffered program coincides with the real-time program;

a memory capable of storing data about the call, the data including at least one of the caller identification information and length of the call, the buffer being capable of buffering the program in a compressed format, the compressed format being selected based on the stored data about the call.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display is coupled to the buffer and is further capable of displaying the buffered program to the user.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a video display device coupled to the buffer, wherein the video display device is capable of displaying the buffered program to the user.

4. through 5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory is further capable of storing a caller list, the caller list being generated based on the stored data about the call.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the caller is included in the caller list of the stored data about the call indicates that at least a predetermined percentage of the caller's calls were accepted by the user.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the caller identification information is displayed only if the caller is included in the caller list.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the controller is further capable of automatically accepting the call if the caller is included in the caller list.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a user input device for controlling viewing of the program and for accepting and terminating the call by the user.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further capable of automatically muting audio associated with the program upon the acceptance of the call by the user.

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12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing uninterrupted viewing of a real-time program during a telephone call from a caller to a user, the system comprising:

means for displaying caller identification information upon receipt of the call;

means for detecting acceptance and termination of the call by the user; and

means for buffering the real-time program from the acceptance of the call and providing the buffered program to the user upon the termination of the call until the buffered program coincides with the real-time program;

wherein a portion of the real time program is not buffered by the means for buffering to facilitate coincidence of the buffered program with the real time program.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of providing uninterrupted viewing of a real-time program during a telephone call from a caller to a user, the method comprising:

displaying caller identification information upon receipt of the call;

detecting acceptance of the call by the user;

buffering the real-time program from the acceptance of the call;

storing data about the call, the data including at least one of: the caller identification information and length of the call; and

displaying the buffered program to the user upon the termination of the call until the buffered program coincides with the real-time program;

wherein the program is buffered in a compressed format, the compressed format being selected based on the stored data about the call.

14. through 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising generating a caller list based on the stored data about the call.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the caller is included in the caller list if the stored data about the call indicates that at least a predetermined percentage of the caller's calls were accepted by the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the caller identification information is displayed only if the caller is included in the caller list.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising automatically accepting the call if the caller is included in the caller list.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having instructions for causing a computer to execute a method of providing uninterrupted viewing of a real-time program during a telephone call from a caller to a user, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying caller identification information upon receipt of the call;
detecting acceptance of the call by the user;
buffering the real-time program from the acceptance of the call; and
playing back the buffered program to the user upon the termination of the call until the buffered program coincides with the real-time program;
wherein the instructions cause the computer to perform the play back of the buffered program in a manner faster than an original reception of the real time program;

wherein the playing back of the buffered program in a faster manner is performed without the user having to fast forward through portions of the buffered program .

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21. (Currently Amended) An integrated system for providing uninterrupted viewing of a real-time program during a telephone call from a caller to a user, the system comprising:

a display configured to display the program and caller identification information upon receipt of the call;

a speaker configured to provide audio output for the program and the call;

a microphone configured to accept audio input for the call;

a user input device configured to control viewing of the program and for accepting and terminating the call by the user;

a controller configured to detect acceptance and termination of the call by the user; and

a buffer coupled to the controller, wherein the buffer is configured to initiate buffering of the real-time program from the display of caller identification information for the call the buffer being further configured to not buffer portions of the real-time program such that ~~when the buffer provides the buffered program to the display upon the termination of the call for playback of the buffered program, the portions of the real-time program not buffered are not played back and the buffering continues until the buffered program coincides with the real-time program.~~

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22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for displaying a video input signal;
means for recording the video input signal; and
means for detecting an incoming phone call;
means for causing said means for recording to record the video input signal in the event said detecting means detects an incoming phone call such that said displaying means are capable of displaying the recorded video input signal to a user upon termination of the phone call;

wherein said means for recording records the video input signal prior to a detection of an incoming phone call by said means for detecting such that the recorded video input includes a portion of the video input signal recorded prior to the detection of an incoming phone call so that displaying the buffered program includes the portion of the video input signal ~~the video input signal~~ recorded prior to the detection of the incoming phone call.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said recording means comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of: a set top box, a computer system, a satellite receiver, a cable receiver, an Internet television box, a network client, and a television.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said recording means is capable of initiating recording of the video input signal at a time selected from the group consisting of: upon detecting the incoming phone call, upon detecting a ring signal from the incoming phone call, upon detecting caller identification data from the incoming phone call.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for allowing a voicemail system to handle the incoming phone call in the event the user does not answer the incoming phone call.

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26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for allowing a voicemail system to handle the incoming phone call in the event the user does not answer the incoming phone call, the voicemail system being disposed in a location selected from the group consisting of: integrated within said recording means, and external to said recording means.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said detecting means further comprises means for displaying caller identification data from the incoming phone call to assist the user in selecting whether to answer the incoming phone call.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said detecting means further comprises means for displaying caller identification data from the incoming phone call when the caller identification data matches a predetermined list, said caller identification data displaying means otherwise not displaying the caller identification data.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said displaying means is further capable of displaying caller identification data from the incoming phone call to assist the user in selecting whether to answer the incoming phone call.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said displaying means is further capable of displaying caller identification data from the incoming phone call when the caller identification data matches a predetermined list, said displaying means otherwise not displaying the caller identification data.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the portion of the real-time program that is not buffered includes any commercial advertisements in the real time program.

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32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein portions of the real-time program not buffered by the buffer comprise commercial advertisement portions of the real-time program.